

Shield/ALERT

-- History --

Talon Shield was originally conceived from lessons learned during Desert Storm. Talon Shield was initially an Air Force Tactical Exploitation of National Capabilities (AF TENCAP) program whose tasks were to improve the existing theater warning capabilities of DSP and to find better ways of processing and disseminating crucial information to tactical users worldwide. These goals were achieved by significantly improving integration and processing of raw data from the entire DSP constellation at one location. This resulted in dramatic improvements in the accuracy and the description of detected events, as well as considerable reductions in data dissemination timeliness to theater. These capabilities represented such a vast improvement over existing systems, that on 22 November 1993, General Horner, Commander of Air Force Space



Command, signed the order to transition Talon Shield to an operational squadron. On 30 September 1994, Talon Shield Phase 1 officially transitioned to the Attack and Launch Early Reporting to Theater (ALERT) system of the 11th Space Warning Squadron (SWS) under the 21st Space Wing. Following operational testing and training, the unit commenced initial warning operations on 10 March 1995 providing theater users with more accurate and timely theater missile warning information. ALERT will continue operating until the SBIRS Ground Processing Increment 1 Initial Operating Capability (IOC) is achieved in late 1999.

-- Program Overview --

Using existing sensors and data collection sources, global data related to theater missile warning is transmitted to the ALERT and Shield systems located at the National Test Facility at Falcon AFB, CO. Other communication resources are also integrated to facilitate information relay. The Central Tactical

ALERT ARCHITECTURE

